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622CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany

SECURITY INFORMATION
REPORT NO.

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COUNTRY

TOPIC Special Action "H" of the KVP

EVALUATION

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PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 20 August to 7 September 1953

DATE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE PREPARED

6 October 1953

REFERENCES

2

PAGES ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 20 August 1953, the recruiting commission of Special Action "H" of the KVP was ordered by cable to temporarily except all large nationalized plants from recruiting measures and to focus the recruiting activity on the Wismuth area. At a meeting on 21 August 1953, Major Schlantzig (fmu), head of the commission, made known the cable and announced that the recruiting age for enlisted men was raised to 23 years. 1
2. By 6 September 1953, the commission was reprimanded by Major General Fritz Koehn, personnel division chief for having recruited only 2,125 enlisted men and 303 officer candidates. The recruiting action, which covered all districts of Saxonia and Thuringia including the Wismuth area, met with enormous difficulties on the part of the eligible juveniles and their parents. 1 It was noted that high-school students displayed only limited enthusiasm for military service. Recruiting activities scheduled for September 1953 were to be extended over Saxonia/Anhalt and Mecklenburg. It was guessed that the fixed number of men would be recruited on no account by 30 September 1953. 1
3. Cable HVA H/D 2637, which was dispatched by the HVA in Berlin to the commission in Gera at 8:30 p.m. on 6 September 1953 and was received by the commission at 9:10 p.m., demanded that the commission discontinue work and return immediately. The cable was signed by Major General Koehn, and, for correctness by Lieutenant Colonel Schindler, as officer on duty. On 9:30 p.m., the commission departed for Berlin. 2
4. At the 10 a.m. meeting on 7 September 1953, Colonel Heinz Wellner, chief political officer, commented on the results of the elections in West Germany and called the outcome a warning signal by the reaction. He said that the progressive world will necessarily be obliged to arrive at appropriate conclusions and announced that new instructions for the present recruiting action were expected to be given by 10 September 1953. His announcements caused consternation among the staff members of the office, who expected that recruits would soon be drafted on a compulsory basis and KVPs related to citizens of West Germany would be subjected to intensified screening and surveillance measures. 2

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25X1 1. [redacted] Comment. The last report [redacted] indicated Major Schlenzig (fnu) as head of the commission. The correct spelling of this name is still unclarified. The recruiting action was originally confined to 17 to 20-year-old men. The extension of the recruiting measures to three other age classes probably results from the limited success of the action hitherto performed. Major General Fritz Koehn is known to be deputy head of the cadre administration at the Ministry of the Interior/KVP. [redacted] 25X1

25X1 2. [redacted] Comment. Previous information indicated that the designation of HVA was no longer used since the summer of 1952, when the HVA was renamed into HVKVP. In the fall of 1952, the major part of the HVKVP was integrated into the newly activated so-called Ministry of National Forces and Lieutenant General Karl Heinz Hoffmann, head of the former HVA and the HVKVP, was, for a certain period of time, referred to by deserters and other sources as deputy for training. It is still undetermined whether the HVKVP was again renamed into HVA. Lieutenant Colonel Schindler [redacted] is known to have been the personnel staff officer of the former HVA. Colonel Heinz Wellner is known as political officer at the Ministry of the Interior/KVP. It is inferred from the interruption of the recruiting action and the recall of the commission to Berlin that new measures for the organization of National Forces in East Germany were projected after the elections in West Germany.

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